

and institutional barriers limiting the recruitment, retention, and achievement of women, minorities, rural students, and other underrepresented groups in academic and government STEM research careers and in developing and implementing current best practices for reducing such barriers. Finally, the legislation authorizes NSF to award grants to universities to implement or expand research-based practices targeted specifically at increasing the recruitment and retention of minority students and faculty.

The STEM Opportunities Act has been a priority of mine for well over a decade. Every Congress since 2007 I have worked to raise awareness among my colleagues about the urgent challenges this bill addresses. While we were successful in passing this bill out of the House last year, we have yet to garner the necessary support to advance this bill in the Senate. I am hopeful that this year will be different. I am honored to be joined by my good friend, Ranking Member LUCAS, again in this effort and I look forward to working with my colleagues in the Senate to get this bill to the President's desk.

I want to thank Ranking Member LUCAS for his continued partnership in advancing thoughtful solutions to the challenges we face in maintaining our standing as the global leader in science and innovation. The STEM workforce is the bedrock of this effort and, in the wake of the COVID-19 crisis, the need to act is more urgent than ever. I encourage the rest of our colleagues to join us and to help us move this bill forward into law.

IN RECOGNITION OF DANIEL
PALETKO

HON. RASHIDA TLAIB

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 5, 2021

Ms. TLAIB. Madam Speaker, I rise today to acknowledge the legacy of public service and commitment to our communities of the late Mayor of Dearborn Heights, Michigan, Daniel Paletko.

Dan Paletko served as mayor of Dearborn Heights from 2004 until his death in 2020. Paletko served one term as a Michigan State Representative and more than two decades as a Dearborn Heights City Councilman. He prioritized making Dearborn Heights a welcoming place for all its residents to call home and was especially proud of the city's rich cultural diversity and recreational resources. His pride in Dearborn Heights was evident in his dedication.

Beyond his public service, Mr. Paletko volunteered his time to many community-based organizations. He was particularly involved with his church community at St. Linus Church, where he served as an usher. He also proudly gave his time to Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) programs and to the American Legion.

Please join me as we recognize Mayor Daniel Paletko's many contributions to the families of Dearborn Heights and the 13th Congressional District as we give honor to his memory.

HONORING THE LIFE OF FIRST
LIEUTENANT JAMES B. MILLER

HON. TOM RICE

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 5, 2021

Mr. RICE of South Carolina. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of First Lieutenant James B. Miller of Marion, South Carolina.

First Lieutenant Miller honorably served his country in the Army during the Korean War. He was awarded the Purple Heart twice while serving with the 179th Infantry Regiment, 45th Infantry Division in Korea. He was seriously wounded by enemy fire in North Korea on March 6, 1953. First Lieutenant Miller returned to duty only a week later. On July 26, 1953, First Lieutenant Miller was tragically killed in action while fighting the enemy in North Korea.

Madam Speaker, I join his family and friends in recognizing the life of First Lieutenant James B. Miller of Marion, South Carolina. We honor him and thank him for his service and sacrifice for our nation.

RECOGNIZING THE LIFE OF
QUTHEL McNATT

HON. TRENT KELLY

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 5, 2021

Mr. KELLY of Mississippi. Madam Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the life of Quthel McNatt of Tishomingo who passed away December 14 at North Mississippi Medical Center in Tupelo.

Mr. McNatt was a beacon of kindness and generosity to all who had the opportunity to know him. He served as a Deacon at Tishomingo Baptist Church. In his free time, Mr. McNatt enjoyed fishing, hunting, and spending time with family and friends. He was a member of IBEW Local 474. From 1989 to 1993 Quthel McNatt served as the mayor of Tishomingo.

Left to cherish his memory are his wife of 67 years, Sara Haines McNatt; sons, Edward, Wesley, and Joshua; and grandchildren, gage, Brady, Belle, Karmen, and Maddyx.

Quthel McNatt was a man of faith and a servant to family, state, and country. He was a blessing to those who knew him and an outstanding Mississippian.

DEDICATED PATRIOTS IN
WASHINGTON

HON. JOE WILSON

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 5, 2021

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Madam Speaker, thousands of dedicated patriots will be in Washington tomorrow to Stop The Steal peacefully protesting the irregularities of the 2020 election. I will welcome the Stedmans of New Jersey, the Durhams of South Carolina, and the Carons of Florida. They are already winners with Republican gains in Congress

with 19 additional Republican women, and all Republican House incumbents re-elected as 15 incumbent Democrats lost, and The Epoch Times, December 2nd by Pete Svab highlighted Republican gains in the state legislatures:

"Republicans expanded their control of state legislatures in the 2020 election, flipping both chambers in one state while gaining more than 160 seats overall."

"Their lead over Democrats thus increased to more than 700 seats (about 67 percent) from over 400."

"The 2020 gains bring the GOP to a total of more than 4,000 seats."

"The balance of power has major consequences. States decide much of the policy that affects people's daily lives, in areas such as education, law enforcement, health care, housing, and infrastructure."

I especially appreciate in South Carolina the leadership of President Donald Trump has produced the largest Republican majorities in 140 years at all levels of government.

In conclusion, God Bless our Troops and we will never forget September 11th in the Global War on Terrorism.

HONORING REV. JAMES C.
BIRDSONG, JR.

HON. DAVID SCOTT

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 5, 2021

Mr. DAVID SCOTT of Georgia. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor an extraordinary Georgian and a great American, Reverend James C. Birdsong, Jr.

Rev. Birdsong is a multi-talented preacher, gospel musician, nationally published author, motivational speaker, and entrepreneur. Through his faith-based outreach, Rev. Birdsong has reached thousands of Georgians with his message of perseverance and trust in God's plan.

Rev. Birdsong was born into a family of talented artists in Richmond, California. From a young age, he knew that his mission in life was to share the word of God with others. Rev. Birdsong exhibited courage and resilience in overcoming a developmental disability to pursue his goals and further his education, culminating in a degree in Biblical Education from Beulah Heights University in Atlanta.

In recent years, Reverend Birdsong has kept busy, conducting numerous media interviews, accepting awards across the country, authoring a moving autobiography, and continuing to preach the gospel. He remains deeply involved in his community, founding the Birdsong Association of Broadcasting and Arts, to provide young voices with the platform and guidance to refine their talents and follow their dreams. He has further helped young Georgians to find their path in life through his continued youth advocacy efforts, leaving a positive impact on so many young people.

Madam Speaker, I congratulate Reverend Birdsong on his impactful career, and extend my sincerest wishes for his continued health and success, as he inspires people across the United States.

May God continue to bless Reverend James C. Birdsong, Jr.

RECOGNIZING THE LIFE OF NOLAN
METTETAL**HON. TRENT KELLY**

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 5, 2021

Mr. KELLY of Mississippi. Madam Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the life of Nolan Mettetal who passed away Monday, December 28, 2020 at the age of 75. As a fellow legislator, I am grateful for Mr. Mettetal's dedication to family, state, and country.

Mr. Mettetal was born on November 19, 1945 in Baton Rouge, Louisiana to Wayne and Georgia Mettetal. He began his career as a registered pharmacist, but soon realized his gift for public service when he ran for Mississippi legislature. Mr. Mettetal served as Mississippi District 10's representative, serving constituents across Panola, Lafayette and Tallahatchie Counties. He handily won two elections for this seat and enjoyed meaningful relationships with members and staff at the Mississippi Capitol. Mr. Mettetal also valued his free time with his wife, affectionately

known by their community as "Mrs. Kay." The two took daily walks around Sardis Lake where he enjoyed watching for hummingbirds and feeding the deer.

Nolan Mettetal is survived by his wife, Kay Ford Mettetal; daughter, Kim; son, Carey; and five grandchildren, gracie, Julien, Nolan, Adelaide and Sadie.

Nolan Mettetal was a light unto all who had the opportunity to know and love him, and he will be deeply missed. My deepest condolences are with his family and friends.